



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## CONEKT™ BLUETOOTH LOW ENERGY (BLE)

Today's smartphones fulfill many of our needs, allowing us to make calls, surf the web, take photographs, listen to music, update social media and check the time. With the Conekt Mobile Smartphone Access Control Solution, our smartphones can also function as access control credentials, thanks to the wireless technology known as Bluetooth.

### What is Bluetooth Low Energy?

Bluetooth is a globally harmonized 2.4-GHz wireless technology used to efficiently exchange data between compliant devices. Today literally billions of devices make use of Bluetooth technology—from smartphones, tablets and PCs, to fitness devices, speakers and smart-home devices. Conekt uses a variant of Bluetooth called Bluetooth Low Energy—commonly called BLE and known formerly as Bluetooth Smart—designed for extremely low-power operation making it perfect for extending smartphone battery life.

### What types of phones can be used with Conekt?

Both iPhone and Android-based smartphones that support BLE will work with Conekt. Keep in mind that BLE implementation is unique on each brand and model of smartphone, so read range and speed may vary.

### Why use BLE over near field communication (NFC)?

BLE and NFC are similar in that they are both contactless technologies, though their unique attributes makes them suited for different applications. BLE is present and available on most modern smartphones. With Conekt, it allows for impressive read ranges, up to 30 feet (9 m) in some cases. Frequency hopping helps to counteract interference, making this range possible. NFC, on the other hand, is a short-range technology limited to very close proximity between devices, typically less than two inches (5 cm). And, as it is commonly used in payment applications, NFC functionality on smartphones is often limited.

### I have a few Bluetooth devices and had to pair each one with my smartphone. How do I pair my smartphone with a Conekt reader?

Unlike legacy Bluetooth Classic applications, Conekt and BLE eliminate the hassle of pairing. Do note however, that Bluetooth functionality must be enabled on the smartphone to use Conekt mobile access credentials contained in the Conekt wallet app.

### How does Conekt use BLE?

The Conekt wallet app allows users to register, store and activate mobile access credentials on a smartphone. Upon opening the app, a mobile credential can then be selected and activated. Once activation of a credential is initiated, BLE technology goes into action, transferring the user's authentication data between the smartphone and the Conekt reader.



*Once a Conekt mobile credential is activated, BLE technology allows wireless communication between smartphone and Conekt reader.*

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### Since it uses BLE technology, will a Conekt reader automatically read a mobile credential without opening the app?

No, a Conekt reader will not automatically read mobile credentials from nearby smartphones. The Conekt app must be opened and a mobile credential selected before the reader/credential communication will take place. This feature removes the problem of unintentionally granting access, as was common with battery powered active tag and “always-on” solutions.

### How will the use of BLE impact a smartphone's battery life?

Given that it is a very low-power technology, the use of BLE and the Conekt Wallet app will have negligible impact on a smartphone's battery life.

### How secure is BLE technology?

BLE is a very secure technology with a proven global user-base. Conekt makes use of BLE's strong AES encryption when transferring data. Compliant to the Certified Common Criteria EAS5+ Computer Interface Standard, Conekt readers provide increased security to resist skimming, eavesdropping and replay attacks. In addition, Conekt mobile credentials are non-transferable, remain protected behind a smartphone's security parameters, and will only work when the Conekt app is in use.



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